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DDI-3091-69

31 October 1969

Executive Registry

69-5518

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence *DK*

SUBJECT : The Two Power Talks

1. The US policy toward negotiating with the Soviets on a peace settlement between the Arabs and Israel appears to be an unreal one.

2. We are negotiating in a nineteenth century manner--a la Congress of Vienna--while paying almost no attention to the rapidly changing situation in the area. While we fence with the Soviets in a desultory fashion over fine diplomatic points--and never get down to the nitty gritty of the problems--the US position in the Arab world and that of the moderate regimes (and there is one less of these since last August--Libya) is being eroded at an accelerating pace. Today Lebanon is on the ropes and Jordan may well be next. Saudi Arabia would then have to follow sooner or later.

3. It is about time that our approach to this problem of negotiations begins to relate to the situation in the area and to what the essential US interests there are.

4. We have not even begun two and a half years after the war to carry out discussions on the problem of Jordan and Israel. Another incredible aspect of the US attitude is that when we do turn to discuss Jordanian interests in a Four Power context we expect to begin with the question of Jerusalem, a sure stopper for any discussion of the other aspects of the Jordan-Israel problem. Jerusalem should be the last subject discussed. It seems to me that Joe Sisco is so intrigued with the idea of continuing negotiations with the Russians that he is unable to relate these talks to the realities of the situation.

5. It appears inescapable that the United States must soon choose consciously between accepting the inevitable erosion of its remaining presence in the Arab world--diplomatic, commercial, economic, and cultural--and adoption of a policy, traditionally considered

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impossible and unthinkable in domestic terms, directed at forcing the Israelis to budge. The longer we follow the present policy, the more rapid the erosion in the US position, the more frozen the Israeli position and the more rapid the descent of the region into a form of chaos. Otherwise, we will see the area become more and more engulfed in hostilities, with the Israelis seizing more territory and the Soviets increasing their influence until it spans from Iran to the Atlantic.

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[REDACTED]

Chief, Arab States-Israel  
Branch, MEAD, OCI

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<b>Remarks:</b> <p>[REDACTED] view of present US      policy toward ME settlement --      triggered by the constant 2nd      depressing drumbeat we hear of      Arab attitudes toward the U.S.      Hard to fault it.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Interesting tidbit</p> <p>2-3: Use pen and RJS EDg Street for new      to passenger</p>				
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